

# **Revival House Fellowship Leadership Manual & Covenant**

by Danny Lirette

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## About Revival House Fellowship

Revival House Fellowship is based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, and is a house church network founded by Dan Lirette. The Fellowship's purpose is to partner with house churches and plant new house churches in the Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

## Leadership Qualifications

In addition to bearing fruit in one's life of genuine conversion, a Revival House Fellowship Member is required to complete the Discipleship, Leadership and Church Planting Courses. All three courses are designed for specific purposes, namely, (1) personal discipleship, (2) leadership training and (3) church planting.

In addition to the above, Leaders within our Fellowship must absolutely affirm and hold to our values, found in this manual, as well as implement the guidelines presented within this manual. In this way, each Revival House Leader is in one spirit and is in one mind with other Revival House Leaders and are also in one accord with the vision of Revival House Fellowship.

## Leaders Must Hold To The Following Statement of Faith

**We believe** that the Bible is God's Word. There's no other Book like it. Men write plenty of books - including religious ones - but the Bible is a Book where God Himself wrote through men to share His heart with us. This is the only Book we hold up as the Book that all other things are subject to. The Bible isn't a book of man's ideas; the Bible is the very true, infallible, inerrant and inspired Word of God Himself. *(We believe this based on 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 3:16; John 14:26; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

**We believe** that the Bible is not merely to be believed in a theological sense only but is to be lived out by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Scripture is to be studied and obeyed... not merely acknowledged. The Word of God is our final authority in all things. *(We believe this based on Psalm 119:11; Joshua 1:7-9; Matthew 4:4)*

**We believe** that there is only One God and that there is no other god but the One True God; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; that the fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in Jesus Christ. *(We believe this based on Exodus 3:6; Deuteronomy*

6:4; Genesis 1:26-27; John 17:3; Acts 5:1-11; Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:16-18; Acts 20:28; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 3:7-12)

**We believe** that Jesus Christ has always existed as God before He ever came to earth as a man because He is God; the One True Almighty God. He's the God-Man... fully God and fully Man. He was conceived and born through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit; His mother, Mary, was a virgin when she conceived Him. He was born without any sin and is the only One who was ever born through the womb of a virgin. He lived a life free from any sin and was perfect and innocent in all ways. When the devil tempted Him, He never gave in. He performed tons of miracles like healings, raising people from the dead and casting out demons. He died on the Cross and shed His Blood as God's own sacrifice and there's no other way to be saved but through His atoning Blood alone. He not only died but He also rose from the dead... not in a "spiritual way" but He actually rose from death. He then was taken up into Heaven and sat down on His Throne and one day He's going to return for all of those who have made Him their Lord, Master, Savior and Friend. *(We believe this based on Exodus 3:14; John 8:58; John 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 4:15; Mark 15:24-25; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 10:12)*

**We believe** that everyone ever born was born separated from God and that no one is born a Christian. Only through the Power of God's Holy Spirit can anyone even come to God. The Lord requires that anyone wanting to know Him must absolutely repent (change their mind about and turn away from) sin and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, as their one and only hope for eternal life. The moment a person repents and puts their full trust in Jesus Christ, they're to be water baptized which is a covenant (or real-deal agreement) with God that they're going to love, honor, serve, obey and walk with Him for the rest of their natural lives on earth. *(We believe this based on Romans 5:12-14; Romans 5:8; John 16:7-11; Acts 2:36-47; 2 Timothy 2:25; Acts 5:31; Acts 11:18; Romans 10:8-13; John 14:1-3)*

**We believe** in water baptism by full immersion upon an individual's repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Water baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards God and is both a death and burial of self and is also a raising up to new life by the Glory of God the Father. *(We believe this based on Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:20-22)*

**We believe** in Holiness. Holiness is where God Himself transforms our hearts to love what He loves and hate what He hates. Apart from holiness, no one will ever see God; those who practice sin and yet claim to know God are deceived and are liars. *(We believe this based on Hebrews 12:14; John 15:1-9)*

**We believe** in Grace. The Grace of God is not a license to sin but rather removes us from sin and it's power and that God's Grace can be multiplied to us. The true Grace of God transforms a life in order that the individual may freely walk in Holiness. Grace is God's empowerment on all who have repented, placed their trust fully in Jesus Christ and who have been water baptized according to the New Covenant. *(We believe this based on Titus 2:11-15; 2 Peter 1:2-4; Jude 1:3-4)*

**We believe** in prayer and in fasting: Prayer and fasting are the means that God has given to His children whereby we come into greater and greater measures of knowing Him in relationship. Prayer and fasting are the lifeblood of the Believer as well as any local church; it's the fuel that drives the People of God and the Church of God. *(We believe this based on Matthew 6:5-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

**We believe** in regular fellowship: Gathering together as the People of God is not optional; it's commanded in the New Covenant and even more than this it's an invitation to be a part of a spiritual family of faith in Jesus Christ. Regularly coming together as a local church is the Will of God for each individual Believer. The Scripture warns against following the example of those who refuse to attend a local church. *(We believe this based on Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; 1 Corinthians 14:26)*

**We believe** that God calls us to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a constant basis and that He gives gifts and ministries to each of His children based on His Will. Not only that, but being full of God's Spirit also does something life changing to our character way deep inside of our hearts that shows itself in you relationships with others. *(We believe this based on Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 5:18-21)*

**We believe** that the Lord has always reigned victorious over satan, demons and the kingdom of darkness; His death and resurrection have brought His People into that same victory. We, as the Church of Jesus Christ, are called to manifest God's Kingdom on the earth through the Anointing of God. Sin, sickness, disease and mental torment are not God's Will for any of His Children and therefore we're called to see the captives set free by God's Power. *(We believe this based on Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:5; Acts 1:8; Colossians 2:15)*

**We believe** in the imminent, bodily, physical return of Jesus Christ for His Church. We affirm that Jesus Christ will return for His People; for those who walk in Holiness. We do not believe that Jesus Christ will return for those who's lives are marked by the practice of sin but will instead war against such people at His return. Those who love the Lord Jesus Christ and obey Him will be rewarded with immortality and incorruption. *(We believe this based on Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Revelation 1:7)*

**We believe** that angels, demons and satan are actual spiritual beings; we don't for one moment think that these beings are somehow "made up". How could we? I mean, angels, demons and satan are at work all over the world so it's pretty obvious they're real. Angels are God's servants while demons and satan are the enemies of anything and anyone God loves. One day, all demons as well as satan will be thrown by God into an eternal Lake that burns with fire. *(We believe this based on Matthew 25:41; Luke 2:10; Mark 5:9; Job 1:6)*

**We believe** that Heaven and Hell are actual places. Those who have trusted in Jesus Christ alone and who die will immediately go to be with Him while those

who die without Him as their Lord and Savior will immediately be in torment in Hell, awaiting the Last Judgment where they will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. *(We believe this based on 2 Corinthians 12:2; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15)*

## **Revival House Fellowship Statement of Fundamental Practices**

We practice the Lord's Supper: We practice the Lord's Supper in order to proclaim the death of Jesus Christ until He returns for us. *(We believe this based on Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

We practice Water Baptism: We practice water baptism as being less than salvation yet more than a symbol. We baptize all who repent and turn to Jesus Christ and we do so without delay as we see this exact example and pattern in the Scriptures. *(We believe this based on Matthew 28:18-20)*

We practice Foot Washing: This practice is an external symbol of submission and humility. Just as Jesus washed the feet of His disciples – including Judas, the one who would betray Him – so we want to follow this very humbling example of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(We believe this based on 1 Timothy 5:10)*

We practice Biblical Giving: We believe in Spirit Led Giving. We believe that Biblical giving consists not only of one's possessions but also of one's finances. That which comes into the local church should be distributed by the elders to be given to those in need. Biblical giving is to be done voluntarily and without obligation. *(We believe this based on Acts 2:45 and 1 Corinthians 16:2)*

## **Revival House Fellowship Covenant**

**I commit** to daily prayer, understanding that prayer is the most intimate aspect of my relationship with Jesus Christ and that through prayer I come into an intimate communion with God and that a lack of prayer will weaken my spiritual walk and ultimately be my downfall into sinful living. In addition, I also commit to regular fasting within my prayer life. *(1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 6:18)*

**I commit** to the study and meditation of the Word of God on a daily basis and understand that Scripture is my spiritual food and is to be read and obeyed. I further understand that neglect of the study of the Word of God will leave me vulnerable and open to deception and will cause me to be defeated in my spiritual walk as the Word of God come to life in my spirit is my sword in which I gain victory over satan, temptation, etc. *(Luke 3:4; Romans 10:17; Psalm 119:11)*

**I commit** to maintaining sexual purity in all areas of my life and specifically will abstain from fornication, masturbation and pornography in all of it's forms. Concerning communication with the opposite sex, I will avoid any communication which is flirtatious and/or intimate in nature and ensure that my emails, texts and

phone calls are of such that if published in a newspaper I would not be ashamed of my words. In addition, I will refrain at all times from being alone with a member of the opposite sex, not using “ministry” as justification for such behavior and will at all times protect my integrity before both God and man. (*1 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:3-5; Ephesians 5:11-12; Psalm 101:3; 1 Timothy 5:1-3*)

**I commit** to the abstinence of all worldly entertainment, including music, television, video games, etc, which are ungodly in nature in the sense of containing anything at all – including immodest dress, cussing in any form, drinking, drug use, violence, etc. (*2 Corinthians 7:1*)

**I commit** to abstain from all alcoholic beverages as well as entering into any establishment which is built specifically to engage in a party spirit (bars, nightclubs, pubs). I will not engage in or passively sit with others in such places but will instead avoid all establishments set up for such purposes unless directed by the Holy Spirit and with others within my assembly who are called to minister the Gospel in such places. (*Proverbs 23:29-35; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18*)

**I commit** to reject gossip and slander. I will not engage in speech concerning meetings or individuals in meetings in a manner which is derogatory, slanderous or which comes with gossip; I will instead hold my tongue and refrain from all of such things and rather pray for those whom I see as living a sinful lifestyle or who have traits concerning their personality or character that I may not be in agreement with. I will bring my mind and tongue under godly subjection at all times. (*Proverbs 10:18; Colossians 4:6; 1 Timothy 5:13; Matthew 12:36-37*)

**I commit** to meeting once per month with other leaders of Revival House Fellowship for the two fold purpose of decision making with other elders concerning my local assembly and the assembly of others in regard to doctrine and practice and also where I will hold myself accountable to the assembled elders concerning my doctrine and practice in my local assembly. I will accept with humility any and all Biblically based counsel on any serious issues arising and needing to be dealt with. (*Acts 15:1-31*)

## **Disciplinary Actions**

If I am found to be in violation of Scripture's command to be holy and sanctified and am instead found to be living in a way that is immoral, covetous, etc, the Elders within Revival House Fellowship will convene to fast, pray and decide as led by the Spirit of God and Scripture, which course of action to take and I will submit myself to the Elders as they are led by the Spirit of God and the Word of God for the purpose of my restoration. The following Scriptures will be used in the above principles of accountability, depending on whether you are a leader or an ordained elder by the laying on of hands. (*Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Timothy 5:19-21; Galatians 6:1-3*)

## **Revival House Leadership Foundations**

Revival House Fellowship bases its leadership on Cross centered teaching, Resurrection empowered living and Spirit filled ministry:

1- The Foundation of the Cross: Revival House Leaders hold that in all areas of one's life concerning temptation and sin, we are to counsel, first and foremost, not psychology or man centered methods, but rather the crucifying of the flesh. In all counsel given, the primary foundation for one's victory comes through the Cross Life; that is, a denial of oneself, which includes sin and temptation which comes to the Believer. (*Matthew 16:24-26*)

2- The Foundation of the Resurrection: As a Leader within this Fellowship, you reject the idea that walking with God is by works but that instead, because of the Resurrection, we are empowered to live holy lives which God has ordained that we should walk in. As a leader, you are called to encourage the Saints to reject legalistic living and seek God in prayer and in fasting for the Resurrection Power of the Spirit in order to walk in the newness of life that each Born Again individual has been given by God. (*Romans 8:1-14*)

3- The Foundation of the Spirit Filled Life: The Spirit Filled life is for service in and to the kingdom of God. Revival House Leaders are to constantly and continually and consistently call the Flock of God to come into the Filling of the Holy Spirit on an initial and then daily basis. Being Filled with the Spirit is an ocean of water to a thirsty soul. (*Acts 1:5; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Ephesians 5:18-21*)

## **Who Revival House Leaders Are Seeking To Reach**

1- The Lost: Revival House Leaders affirm that the lost are just that: lost. They do not water down this truth concerning man's sinfulness and separation from God. Leaders have a passion to not only reach the lost through witnessing but through witnessing Biblically, which is to call men to repentance from sin and self and to place their faith in Jesus Christ and be water baptized. You are called to present the Gospel clearly and to communicate the Biblical message of the Good News to those at Revival House so they too can Biblically preach the Gospel. (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20*)

2- The Backslidden: Revival House Leaders are to call the backslidden to the Lord with great grace and much mercy and not to be heavy-handed or hard on the fallen unless such people are hardened in their sin to a place where they love and take pleasure in their sin and are destructive to themselves as well as to those in the Body of Christ. Leaders are to balance this grace with a caution in watching over the Flock so that sin does not infect the camp. Discipline, according to Biblical guidelines with prayer, fasting and the direct leading of the Holy Spirit is to be used to see such individuals restored to fellowship with God and with the Brethren. (*Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-3; James 5:19-20*)

3- The Spiritually Dry: Revival House Leaders are to call the spiritually dry to seek the Lord, first and foremost, in prayer and in fasting, for spiritual renewal. Our

belief as Leaders is that God does not lie and when He promised to fill the thirst soul, He meant it. In calling a Saint to seek God for spiritual renewal by earnestly praying and fasting, we have them rely on the Lord rather than solely on the advice or counsel we may give. God alone fills and renews His People and apart from prayer and fasting, renewal will not be forthcoming. (*Luke 11:9-13; 2 Timothy 1:6*)

## **Prayer as the emphasis**

1- Prayer: Revival House Leaders should open each meeting with a minimum of 30 minutes of prayer and should close with a minimum of 30 minutes of prayer at the conclusion of each meeting unless specifically directed by the Holy Spirit to move in a different direction. Opening each meeting in prayer honors God, prepares the hearts of the people and welcomes in the Presence and Power of God. (*Acts 4:23-33*)

## **Leadership Enforcements**

1- Dealing With Those Who Engage In Self Imposed Leadership: When a non-leader seeks to lord it over any of the Flock under our care or attempts to lord it over any of the Flock under our care in a public meeting, you, as an appointed Leader within Revival House Fellowship, are to immediately stop such a thing, yet with great wisdom, compassion and mercy. (*Revelation 2:20-23; 3 John 1:9-11; Matthew 6:1-8*)

2- Dealing With Uninvited Interruptions: If an individual in a public meeting brings with him or her an engagement in uninvited interruptions, you are to stop such activity immediately so it does not spread to the rest of the Flock present. Do this with great mercy and compassion. (*Acts 13:15-16; Acts 15:12-13*)

2- Dealing With Opposite Sex Ministry: If you, as a Leader within this Fellowship, are knowledgeable of private ministry between a male and a female outside of public meetings, you are to call the individuals to meet with yourself and with another leader of the Fellowship or are to call on an elder in another Revival House Assembly if no second leader is present in your particular assembly. You will make clear that any and all opposite sex ministry outside of a public setting or where there is no witness present is not to take place. You are not to do even this alone; you must have a witness present who is a leader or an Elder from within the Council of Elders so as to protect your integrity in this type of situation that no false accusation may be brought against you without defense. (*Romans 13:9-10; Romans 13:14; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:22*)

3- Dealing With Open Confession Of One's Sins: Those within the Fellowship may at times be moved upon by the Spirit of God to openly confess their sin in an open meeting. In such cases, you, as a Revival House Fellowship Leader, will need to be sensitive to the activity taking place, to know whether it is the Holy Spirit moving such an individual or whether their activity is inappropriate for the meeting. As a



general rule, we do not allow confession of one's sins in an open meeting. If an individual engages in such activity and you believe that it is inappropriate, you are to immediately stop such a person with great compassion and love in the spirit of Christ. (*Psalm 51:4; James 5:14-16*)

4- Dealing With Gossip And Slander: Those who, for any reason at all, engage in gossip or slander of another individual in either a private setting or a public setting are to be warned first and rebuked sharply if they excuse/justify their sin or ignore your warning. Leadership within Revival House Fellowship must not, for any reason, tolerate gossip or slander and must immediately deal with such things and under no circumstance allow it to continue. (*James 3:6-12; James 4:11-12*)

## **Leadership Encouragements**

Revival House Meetings are certainly not all the same, though we do have a Biblical foundation in which we follow, namely:

1 Cor 14:26 “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”

1- “Come Together”: Leaders within the Fellowship are to encourage the Flock to meet on a regular basis, at least once per week. You are called on by God to encourage the Saints to refuse to deny fellowship with one another. As a Leader, you must also make it clear that we believe it to be spiritually dangerous to have Fellowship of any kind with those who are not connected to and accountable with a local assembly which holds to Biblical truth and Spirit filled living.

2- “Every One Of You”: Revival House Leaders are not to stop those within the Fellowship from genuine ministry. Your calling as a Leader within this Fellowship is to encourage and provoke the Saints to be used by God in their particular ministries to the local assembly. No Leader is to lord it over the Saints in our Fellowship but rather is to come alongside individuals within our assembly to help them in being used by the Lord in public settings in order to edify those gathered together.

3- “Hath A Psalm”: Music, whether that includes instruments or not, should be a part of each gathering at Revival House Fellowship. Leaders should encourage the Saints to use their musical talents to bless, encourage and edify the others gathered.

4- "Hath A Doctrine": Leadership within Revival House should be very discerning as to who can teach/share doctrine. With so much false doctrine, Leaders are especially encouraged to be on guard for those who may seek to present anti-Scriptural teachings to the assembled body of Believers. That said, Leaders should be on the watch for and choose those within the Fellowship who have a doctrine to share in order to bless, encourage and edify the Saints. Such people do not have to be official Leaders, Pastors/Elders.

5- "Hath A Tongue": As a general principle, uninterpreted speaking in tongues should not be allowed unless there is an interpreter present; if it is unknown if an interpreter is present, the tongues should be allowed with a short period of silence so that an opportunity may be given for the spoken tongue to be interpreted by either one gathered or by the speaker of the tongue him/herself. Additionally, if one is receiving the gift of praying in/speaking in tongues for the first time, it must be allowed.

6- "Hath A Revelation": Receiving a revelation of the Written Word is encouraged! Do not reject a revelation but test it openly along with the other assembled Brethren and be sensitive to whether or not the Spirit of God has given the revelation or whether the revelation has come from another source. If from the Spirit of God, receive it gladly; if from another source (one's flesh or demonic), reject the revelation as not coming from the Spirit of Christ, though do so, especially with new Believers and the unlearned, in a compassionate manner which is full of grace and mercy.

7- "Hath An Interpretation": If an unknown tongue is spoken in a meeting, all should remain silent for a short duration of time so as to allow for the interpretation. If no interpretation is forthcoming, the Leadership should have the one speaking in an unknown tongue pray that he... the speaker...be given the interpretation. Leaders may also have the entire assembled body pray for the speaker that they receive (or someone receive) the interpretation.

8- "Let All Things be Done Unto Edifying": Leaders are to ensure that any and all Gifts and Manifestations are to the Glory of God for the edifying... or building up... of the Saints. Those who seek to lay claim to a gift in order to manipulate, control or abuse the Saints and the meetings are to be stopped immediately. So called prophetic words that come with harshness and rebuke, etc, should be, unless clearly indicated by the Holy Spirit, rejected outright unless the individual speaking is known as a Prophet of God and/or has been with Revival House Fellowship for some time and is known as godly and fruit bearing. As a general principle, all things must be to build up.

## **Final Statement Concerning What We Encourage In Our Meetings**

Leaders must promote Holiness and Purity in the lives of the Saints as we are a Fellowship, not of legalism, but instead of Holiness in practice and in doctrine

through the Cross Life, Resurrection Life and Spirit Filled Life. Preaching and Teaching and Fellowship must bear with it a clear and precise call to right living (holiness), Biblical meditation, fellowship, prayer and a consistent calling on the Name of Jesus for one's spiritual walk. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Timothy 6:3-6; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:16)

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I, (PRINT NAME) \_\_\_\_\_, agree with this manual and covenant and by God's Grace, will seek to walk in the Biblical Principles laid out in this manual.

Signature:

Witness:

Date: